

Calendar No. 643

103D CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

S. 1683

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission for acquisition of land in the Sterling Forest area of the New York/New Jersey Highlands Region, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 27 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994  
Reported with an amendment

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 2), 1993

Mr. BRADLEY (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

SEPTEMBER 27 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Reported by Mr. JOHNSTON, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide funds to the Palisades Interstate Park Commission for acquisition of land in the Sterling Forest area of the New York/New Jersey Highlands Region, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sterling Forest and  
3 New Jersey Watershed Protection Act of 1993”.

4 **SEC. 2. LAND ACQUISITION.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Palisades Park Commis-  
6 sion (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”) is au-  
7 thorized to acquire from the Sterling Forest Corporation  
8 an open space tract of land comprising the Sterling Forest  
9 area of the New York/New Jersey Highlands Region.

10 (b) MANAGEMENT.—The Commission shall manage  
11 the land acquired pursuant to subsection (a) to enhance  
12 protection of watershed, outdoor recreational, wildlife  
13 habitat, and Appalachian Trail values in the Sterling For-  
14 est area of the New York/New Jersey Highlands Region.

15 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
17 priated to the Secretary of the Interior \$35,000,000 for  
18 the purposes of acquiring the land described in section 2.

19 (b) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Of the sums made avail-  
20 able pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of the Inte-  
21 rior shall transfer to the Commission such sums as are  
22 necessary to carry out this Act.

23 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

24 This Act may be cited as the “Sterling Forest Protec-  
25 tion Act of 1994”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 *The Congress finds that—*

3 *(1) the Palisades Interstate Park Commission*  
4 *was established pursuant to a joint resolution of the*  
5 *75th Congress approved in 1937 (Public Resolution*  
6 *No. 65; ch. 706; 50 Stat. 719), and chapter 170 of the*  
7 *Laws of 1937 of the State of New York and chapter*  
8 *148 of the Laws of 1937 of the State of New Jersey;*

9 *(2) the Palisades Interstate Park Commission is*  
10 *responsible for the management of 23 parks and his-*  
11 *toric sites in New York and New Jersey, comprising*  
12 *over 82,000 acres;*

13 *(3) over 8 million visitors annually seek outdoor*  
14 *recreational opportunities within the Palisades Park*  
15 *System;*

16 *(4) Sterling Forest is a biologically diverse open*  
17 *space on the New Jersey border comprising approxi-*  
18 *mately 17,500 acres, and is a highly significant wa-*  
19 *tershed area for the State of New Jersey, providing*  
20 *the source for clean drinking water for 25 percent of*  
21 *the State;*

22 *(5) Sterling Forest is an important outdoor rec-*  
23 *reational asset in the northeastern United States,*  
24 *within the most densely populated metropolitan re-*  
25 *gion in the Nation;*

1           (6) *Sterling Forest supports a mixture of hard-*  
2           *wood forests, wetlands, lakes, glaciated valleys, is*  
3           *strategically located on a wildlife migratory route,*  
4           *and provides important habitat for 27 rare or endan-*  
5           *gered species;*

6           (7) *the protection of Sterling Forest would great-*  
7           *ly enhance the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a*  
8           *portion of which passes through Sterling Forest, and*  
9           *would provide for enhanced recreational opportunities*  
10          *through the protection of lands which are an integral*  
11          *element of the trail and which would protect impor-*  
12          *tant trail viewsheds;*

13          (8) *stewardship and management costs for units*  
14          *of the Palisades Park System are paid for by the*  
15          *States of New York and New Jersey; thus, the protec-*  
16          *tion of Sterling Forest through the Palisades Inter-*  
17          *state Park Commission will involve a minimum of*  
18          *Federal funds; and*

19          (9) *given the nationally significant watershed,*  
20          *outdoor recreational, and wildlife qualities of Sterling*  
21          *Forest; the demand for open space in the northeastern*  
22          *United States; the lack of open space in the densely*  
23          *populated Tri-State region; there is a clear Federal*  
24          *interest in acquiring the Sterling Forest for perma-*  
25          *nent protection of the watershed, outdoor recreational,*

1        *flora and fauna, and open space; which is a cost effec-*  
 2        *tive investment compared to the costs which would be*  
 3        *required to protect drinking water for the region*  
 4        *should the Sterling Forest be developed.*

5        **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

6        *Subject to the requirements of this Act, the purposes*  
 7        *of this Act are—*

8                *(1) to establish the Sterling Forest Reserve in the*  
 9                *State of New York to protect the significant water-*  
 10               *shed, wildlife, and recreational resources within the*  
 11               *New York-New Jersey highlands region;*

12               *(2) to authorize Federal funding, through the De-*  
 13               *partment of the Interior, for a portion of the acquisi-*  
 14               *tion costs for the Sterling Forest Reserve;*

15               *(3) to direct the Palisades Interstate Park Com-*  
 16               *mission to convey to the Secretary of the Interior cer-*  
 17               *tain interests in lands acquired within the Reserve;*  
 18               *and*

19               *(4) to provide for the management of the Sterling*  
 20               *Forest Reserve by the Palisades Interstate Park Com-*  
 21               *mission.*

22        **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

23        *As used in this Act, the term—*

24               *(1) “Commission” means the Palisades Interstate*  
 25               *Park Commission established pursuant to Public Res-*

1        *olution No. 65 approved August 19, 1937 (ch. 707; 50*  
 2        *Stat. 719);*

3            (2) “Reserve” means the Sterling Forest Reserve;  
 4        *and*

5            (3) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Inte-  
 6        *rior.*

7        **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STERLING FOREST**  
 8            **RESERVE.**

9            (a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Upon the certification by the  
 10        *Commission to the Secretary that the Commission has ac-*  
 11        *quired sufficient lands or interests therein to constitute a*  
 12        *manageable unit, there is hereby established the Sterling*  
 13        *Forest Reserve in the State of New York.*

14          (b) *MAP.*—(1) *The Reserve shall consist of lands and*  
 15        *interests therein acquired by the Commission within the ap-*  
 16        *proximately 17,500 acres of lands as generally depicted on*  
 17        *the map entitled “Boundary Map, Sterling Forest Reserve,*  
 18        *numbered SFR–60,001 and dated July 1, 1994.*

19          (2) *The map referred to in paragraph (1) shall be on*  
 20        *file and available for public inspection in the offices of the*  
 21        *Commission and the appropriate offices of the National*  
 22        *Park Service, Department of the Interior.*

23          (c) *TRANSFER OF FUNDS.*—Subject to the conditions  
 24        *set forth in subsection (d), the Secretary shall transfer to*

1 *the Commission such funds as are appropriated for the ac-*  
2 *quisition of lands and interests therein within the Reserve.*

3 *(d) CONDITIONS OF FUNDING.—(1) Prior to the receipt*  
4 *of any Federal funds authorized by this Act, the Commis-*  
5 *sion shall agree to the following terms and conditions:*

6 *(A) If the Commission fails to manage the lands*  
7 *acquired within the Reserve in a manner consistent*  
8 *with this Act, the Commission shall convey fee title to*  
9 *such lands to the United States. Such agreement to*  
10 *convey to the United States shall be recorded at the*  
11 *time of purchase.*

12 *(B) No lands or interests therein may be ac-*  
13 *quired with any Federal funds authorized or trans-*  
14 *ferred pursuant to this Act except with the consent of*  
15 *the owner thereof.*

16 *(C) If the Commission is unable to acquire all*  
17 *of the lands within the Reserve, to the extent Federal*  
18 *funds are utilized pursuant to this Act, the Commis-*  
19 *sion shall acquire all or a portion of the lands identi-*  
20 *fied as “National Park Service Wilderness Easement*  
21 *Lands” and “National Park Service Conservation*  
22 *Easement Lands” on the map referred to in section*  
23 *5(b) before proceeding with the acquisition of any*  
24 *other lands within the Reserve.*



1           (D) Within 30 days after acquiring the lands  
2 identified as “National Park Service Wilderness Easement Lands” and “National Park Service Conservation Easement Lands” on the map referred to in section 5(b), the Commission shall convey to the United States the following:

7           (i) Conservation easement(s) on those lands  
8 described as “National Park Service Wilderness Easement Lands” on the map referred to in section 5(b). Such easement(s) shall provide that the lands shall be managed to protect their wilderness character.

13           (ii) Conservation easement(s) on those lands  
14 described as “National Park Service Conservation Easement Lands” on the map referred to in section 5(b). Such easement(s) shall restrict and limit development and use of the property to that compatible with the protection of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Any such development and use shall be consistent with the general management plan prepared pursuant to section 6(b).

23           (2) Funds may be transferred to the Commission only  
24 to the extent that they are matched from funds contributed  
25 by non-Federal sources.

1 **SEC. 6. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVE.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Commission shall manage the  
3 lands acquired within the Reserve in a manner consistent  
4 with the Commission's authorities and with the purposes  
5 of this Act.

6 (b) *GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.*—Within 3 years  
7 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall  
8 prepare a general management plan for the Reserve, and  
9 shall submit such plan to the Secretary for approval.

10 **SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in subsection  
12 (b), there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as  
13 may be necessary to carry out this Act, to remain available  
14 until expended.

15 (b) *LAND ACQUISITION.*—Not more than \$17,500,000  
16 may be appropriated to the Secretary for transfer to the  
17 Commission for the acquisition of lands and interests there-  
18 in within the Reserve.